

In re Patent Application of:
FLICK
Serial No. 10/043,077
Confirmation No. 6614
Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, ~~and~~ a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle control system comprising:

at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the vehicle indicator, communicating with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus, and cooperating with said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user,

communicating with the vehicle alarm indicator via said data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned, and

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. **10/043,077**

Confirmation No. **6614**

Filed: **JANUARY 9, 2002**

causing an indication of a number of
learned uniquely coded transmitters.

19. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle alarm indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

Claims 24-29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

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extending throughout the vehicle, and a vehicle alarm indicator at least one vehicle device connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle control system comprising:

 a biometric characteristic sensor for sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user; and

 a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the vehicle alarm indicator at least one vehicle device and cooperating with said biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

 communicating with the vehicle alarm indicator at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,

 learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to cause causing an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 ~~Claim 31~~ wherein the vehicle alarm indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

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audible signal generator.

Claims 33-38 (Canceled).

39. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

40. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

41. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

42. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

43. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

44. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.

45. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said biometric sensor comprises at least one of a fingerprint sensor, a voice pattern sensor, a facial pattern sensor, a skin pattern sensor, a hand pattern sensor, a venous pattern sensor and a retinal pattern sensor.

Claims 46-56 (Canceled).

57. (Currently amended) A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and a vehicle alarm indicator ~~at least one vehicle device~~ connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the method comprising:

sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user from a biometric characteristic sensor; and

using a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the vehicle alarm indicator ~~at least one vehicle device~~ and cooperating with the biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

communicating with the vehicle alarm
indicator ~~at least one vehicle device~~ via the data
communications bus,

learning the unique biometric
characteristic to permit control of a vehicle
function by the user, and

communicating with the vehicle alarm
indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to
cause ~~causing~~ an indication of whether at least one
new unique biometric characteristic has been
learned.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim
57 ~~Claim 58~~ wherein the vehicle alarm indicator comprises at
least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration
transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal
generator.

Claims 60-63 (Canceled).

64. (Previously presented) A method according to
Claim 57 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning
mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric
characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an
indication that the learning mode has been entered.

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

65. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.